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But neither the United Arab Republic nor the Arab Federation lasted long. A military coup occurred in Iraq just two months after the formation of the Arab Federation, and all of the Iraqi royal family were killed. The Arab Federation collapsed so quickly. Regarding the United Arab Republic, the militia of Syria army repulsed against Nasser's attempt to integrate two countries forcefully. The coup d'état was taken place by the Syrian army officers in September 1961. The coalition between Egypt and Syria was resolved.

On the other hand, the friendship between Iraq and Syria had been deepened by the Baath Party which held Pan Arabism doctrine. At the era of Ottoman Empire, the Mediterranean East Coast region including two countries was called Levant as one solid region. But during the World War I, Syria and Iraq were divided by France and the UK according to the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Historically Syria and Iraq had been looking for the re-unification. In 1963 the Iraq-Syrian unity was almost achieved but the plan again failed. It was interested in to point out that a terrorist group ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) so-called IS (Islamic State) or Daesh has controlled the region for a while in 2010s. Islamic State insisted that Syria and northern Iraq was the integral part of old Levant.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)